

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of distributing various quality versions of an electronic content,  
said method comprising:
  - defining each quality version of the electronic content;
  - 5 defining at least one distortion algorithm executable to generate a lower  
quality version of the electronic content by a distortion of the highest quality version of the  
electronic content; and
  - assigning at least one content key to at least one quality version of the  
electronic content.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - storing the highest quality version of the electronic content on an electronic  
content medium.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
  - storing at least one distortion algorithm on the electronic content medium.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - storing the at least one distortion algorithm on an electronic content player.
- 20 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
  - storing the at least content key on the electronic content medium.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - 25 storing the at least content key on an electronic content player.
7. An electronic content medium, comprising:
  - a highest quality version of an electronic content; and
  - at least one distortion algorithm executable to generate a lower quality  
30 version of the electronic content by a distortion of said highest quality version of the  
electronic content.

8. The electronic content medium, further comprising:  
at least one content key assigned to one of the quality versions of the  
electronic content.
- 5 9. An electronic content player, comprising:  
a decryption unit operable to decrypt and decode a highest quality version  
of an electronic content; and  
a distortion unit operable to generate a lower quality version of the  
electronic content by a distortion of the decrypted and decoded highest quality version of  
10 the electronic content.
10. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:  
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the  
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key associated  
15 with the electronic content.
11. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:  
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the  
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key assigned  
20 to one of a lower quality version of the electronic content.
12. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:  
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the  
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key associated  
25 with the electronic content subsequent to a reception of a secret key assigned to the  
electronic content player.

13. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:  
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the  
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key assigned  
to one of a lower quality version of the electronic content subsequent to a reception of a  
5 secret key assigned to the electronic content player.